

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An apparatus for fixating a suture in a predetermined position relative to a pledget, the apparatus comprising:

a block having at least one slit extending therethrough, the at least one slit configured and

5 adapted to engage at least a portion of the suture to maintain a predetermined suture/pledget orientation.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one slit is configured and dimensioned to maintain a substantially parallel relationship between first and second end portions of the suture.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one slit is two slits.

10 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the block includes a first face, a second face, and a top face therebetween.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein at least a portion of first and second end portions of the suture extend beyond a face of the block.

6. A suture pledget assembly comprising:

15 an elongated suture having a first end portion, a second end portion, and an intermediate portion therebetween;

block having at least one slit extending therethrough, the at least one slit configured and adapted to engage at least a portion of the suture to maintain a predetermined suture/pledget orientation; and

20 a pledget having a front wall in an abutting relation to the block such that the front wall substantially contacts at least a portion of the block, the pledget including the intermediate portion of the suture and the intermediate portion is spaced apart from the block.

7. The assembly of claim 6, wherein the at least one slit is configured and dimensioned to maintain a substantially parallel relationship between first and second end portions of the suture.
8. The assembly of claim 6, wherein the at least one slit is two slits.
9. The assembly of claim 8, wherein the first and second end portions are substantially  
5 perpendicular to the front wall of the pledget.
10. The assembly of claim 5, wherein the block includes a first face, a second face, and a top face therebetween.
11. The assembly of claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the first and second end portions of the suture extend beyond a face of the block.
- 10 12. A suture pledget package comprising:  
a suture pledget assembly including an elongated suture, a block including at least one slit extending therethrough wherein the at least one slit is configured and adapted to engage at least a portion of the suture, and a pledget including an intermediate portion of the suture; and  
a package including a backing panel defining a plurality of elongated tracks, each track  
15 configured and dimensioned for receiving at least one suture pledget assembly, and a front panel attached to the backing panel.
13. The package of claim 12, wherein the elongated suture includes a first end portion, a second end portion, and an intermediate portion therebetween.
14. The package of claim 13, wherein the at least one slit is configured and dimensioned to  
20 maintain a substantially parallel relationship between first and second end portions of the suture.
15. The package of claim 12, wherein the at least one slit is two slits.
16. The package of claim 13, wherein the first and second end portions are substantially perpendicular to the front wall of the pledget.

17. The package of claim 12, wherein the block includes a first face, a second face, and a top face therebetween.

18. The package of claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the first and second end portions of the suture extend beyond a face of the block.